



**Request for Proposals  
for the  
Kentucky Clean School Bus Grant Program**

**Issued by:  
Kentucky Division for Air Quality  
April 21, 2009**

**Project Proposal Deadline:  
May 29, 2009  
5:30 p.m. EDT**

**Send completed proposals to:**

**Kentucky Division for Air Quality  
ATTN: Shea Hogan  
200 Fair Oaks Lane, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Frankfort, KY 40601**

**Or by email to: [Shea.Hogan@ky.gov](mailto:Shea.Hogan@ky.gov)**



A funding opportunity made possible through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

The Kentucky Division for Air Quality (DAQ) announces the availability of funds and solicits proposals for projects to purchase and install emission control (retrofit) devices on diesel school buses in the state of Kentucky. Approximately \$1.5 million is available through this competitive funding opportunity. All public school districts located in the state of Kentucky are invited to apply.

### **Background**

It is the mission of the Kentucky DAQ to protect human health and the environment by achieving and maintaining acceptable air quality. This grant program will adhere to DAQ's mission by helping to reduce the public's direct exposure to toxic diesel emissions as well as assist in the effort to attain the federal ambient air quality standards for particulate matter (PM).

Diesel engines are one of the largest sources of PM in the United States, and they additionally emit ozone-forming nitrogen oxides and toxic air pollutants. Diesel exhaust ranks among the air pollutants that EPA believes pose the greatest public health risks, as exposure to fine particles and ozone causes lung damage and aggravates existing respiratory diseases such as asthma. Children, with their growing lungs, faster respiratory rates, and close proximity to diesel school buses, are especially susceptible to the health effects of diesel exhaust.

Projects funded through this grant program will assist in achieving emission reductions in the state's school bus fleet and will thereby reduce the health risks to school children as a result of exposure to harmful diesel emissions.

### **Funding**

This funding was made possible through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) and the U.S. EPA's State Clean Diesel Grant Program. The State Clean Diesel Grant Program was established through the National Clean Diesel Campaign under the Energy Policy Act of 2005 in order to assist entities across the country in building diesel emission reduction programs that improve air quality and protect public health. This program recently received additional funding through the enactment of the ARRA; of this additional funding, Kentucky DAQ will dedicate approximately \$1.5 million to expand upon the Kentucky Clean School Bus Grant Program that was established in 2008.

For selected projects, DAQ will fund 100% of the total approved project costs, up to a maximum of \$250,000 per project. Approved costs will include all equipment costs and installation costs associated with the selected retrofit project. Any administrative costs, outreach costs, or other costs that are accrued will be the responsibility of the school district.

Funds will be paid to the grant recipients on a reimbursement basis by DAQ after the equipment purchase and installation has been completed. Itemized invoices will be required for all payment requests.

### **Eligible Applicants**

Kentucky public school districts that own and/or operate school buses are eligible to apply for funding through this grant program.

### **Eligible Vehicles**

Model year 1998-2006 diesel school buses are eligible to be retrofitted.

### **Eligible Retrofit Technologies**

#### **1. VERIFIED RETROFIT TECHNOLOGIES**

All projects funded through this grant program must utilize technologies that have been verified or certified through the U.S. EPA's verification or certification programs or through the California Air Resources Board (CARB) verification or certification programs. A list of U.S. EPA verified technologies is available at <http://www.epa.gov/cleandiesel/>. CARB-verified technologies may be found at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/diesel/verdev/verdev.htm>.

Specifically, DAQ will fund the following verified retrofit technologies:

- Level 1 – Diesel Oxidation Catalysts (DOCs); or
- Level 2 – Diesel Multi-stage Filters (DMFs) or other verified partial flow filters; or
- Level 3 – Diesel Particulate Filters (DPFs); and
- Closed Crankcase Ventilation Systems (CCVS), used in conjunction with each of the above technologies

#### **2. REPLACEMENT FILTERS**

For projects that utilize DPFs, DAQ will consider funding the purchase of an additional filter that can be utilized in the fleet as necessary during the cleaning of each primary filter.

For all projects, DAQ will fund the purchase of CCVS replacement filters to assist with proper long-term maintenance of these devices.

#### **3. FILTER CLEANING DEVICES**

DAQ will additionally fund the purchase of DPF cleaning devices, such as a Pulse Cleaner or Thermal Regenerator, for school districts that plan on utilizing DPFs in their fleet.

### **Project selection criteria**

The following criteria will be considered in selecting projects for funding:

- Location of the applicant, specifically school districts located in areas of the state not meeting federal particulate matter (PM) standards [20 points]
- Applicants that commit to adopting policies and practices to eliminate unnecessary idling of school buses in their school districts [20 points]
- Applicants that demonstrate a commitment to “green” practices and sustainability initiatives [15 points]
- Applicants that demonstrate a commitment to environmental education and outreach efforts [15 points]
- Applicants that submitted proposals for FY08 Clean School Bus funding but were not awarded funds [10 points]
- Expediency of project implementation [10 points]
- Economic Need [10 points]

### **Project selection process**

A project selection review team comprised of DAQ staff will review and rank eligible proposals based on the criteria described above. The Division reserves the right to partially fund project proposals or alter project proposals if necessary.

### **Project timeline**

April 21, 2009	Release of RFP
April 30, 2009	Q & A Conference Call for interested applicants
May 7, 2009	Q & A Meeting for interested applicants
May 29, 2009	Deadline for submittal of proposals
June 19, 2009	Grant selections made by DAQ and chosen applicants notified
July 17, 2009	Final application submission deadline for chosen applicants
August 3, 2009	Project period begins for approved and funded projects
August 30, 2010	Deadline for project completion and final report due

**Proposal format**

Incomplete applications WILL NOT be scored. Completed proposals must contain:

- Cover letter signed by applicant's Superintendent or Transportation Director
- Completed Grant Application Template

**For More Information**

DAQ staff will not be available to answer questions on an individual basis or review draft applications during the application period for this grant program (April 21 – May 29, 2009). Interested applicants who have questions should plan on attending one or both of the two events below in order to have these questions addressed. For more information on these events and the Kentucky Clean School Bus Grant Program, please visit the Kentucky Division for Air Quality's website at [www.air.ky.gov](http://www.air.ky.gov).

***Upcoming Events***

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The Division will be holding a conference call on Thursday April 30, 2009 at 10:00am EDT/9:00am CDT to address any questions school districts may have regarding the Kentucky Clean School Bus Grant Program. Dave Mangum of the Department of Education will be on hand along with DAQ staff to answer any questions potential applicants may have regarding this grant program.

The call-in number and passcode for this call are as follows:

Call-in number: 877-746-4263

Passcode: 0276172#

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The Division will additionally be hosting an informal Q & A meeting on Thursday May 7, 2009 starting at 10:00am EDT to address any questions school districts may have regarding the Kentucky Clean School Bus Grant Program. This meeting will be held in Room C117 of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet building, 200 Mero Street, Frankfort. All interested grant applicants are invited to attend.

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